

TIMSS 2023 Field Trial Video

Video for Parents

Your child's school has been selected to take part in a large international study called TIMSS. This video will tell you what TIMSS is about, and what it involves.

Roghnaíodh do scoil le haghaidh staidéir ar a dtugtar TIMSS air. Míneoidh an físeán seo duit mar gheall ar an staidéar seo, agus cad atá i gceist leis.

1. What is TIMSS?

TIMSS is the Trends in International Maths and Science Study and it is run by an international organisation called the IEA. The aim of TIMSS is to find out about the maths and science skills of students in Fourth Class and in Second Year around the world. TIMSS takes place every four years, in almost 70 countries. This year, TIMSS is moving from a paper-based to a digital assessment, reflecting the widespread use of technology in schools and society. As part of this transition, some classes in Ireland will be taking the test on paper, while others will be taking it on computers.

Seasann TIMSS le haghaidh Treochtaí i Staidéir Idirnáisiúnta Matamaitice agus Eolaíochta, agus tá sé faoi stiúr eagraíocht idirnáisiúnta darbh ainm an Cumann Idirnáisiúnta um Mheastóireacht ar Ghnóthachtáil Oideachais (IEA). Is é an aidhm atá ag TIMSS ná eolas a bhailiú faoi scileanna matamaitice agus eolaíochta na ndaltaí i rang a ceathair agus na scoláirí sa dara bliain ar fud an domhain. I mbliana, tá TIMSS ag bogadh ó mheasúnú ar pháipéar chuig measúnú digiteach. Léiríonn an t-athrú seo úsáid forleathan na teicneolaíochta i scoileanna agus sa tsochaí féin. Mar chuid den athrú, tá roinnt ranganna in Éirinn ag úsáid páipéir chun an scrúdú a dhéanamh agus beidh daoine eile ag úsáid ríomhairí.

2. What is the ERC?

In Ireland, the Department of Education has asked the Educational Research Centre, or ERC, to manage the TIMSS study. The ERC is based in Drumcondra in Dublin and studies lots of aspects of the education system. It carries out several large international studies on subjects such as reading, maths, and science.

D'iarr an Roinn Oideachais ar an bhForas Taighde ar Oideachas (nó an FTO) staidéar TIMSS a bhainistiú in Éirinn. Tá an FTO lonnaithe i mBaile Átha Cliath, agus is ann a dhéantar staidéar ar ghnéithe éagsúla den chóras oideachais. Reáchtálann sé staidéir mhóra idirnáisiúnta ar ábhair éagsúla, m.sh. an léitheoireacht, an mhatamaitic, agus an eolaíocht in Éirinn.

3. What does TIMSS involve?

We would like to involve every child in 4th Class in Ireland, but that is not possible! Instead, we have selected a smaller number of schools all around Ireland. Schools are selected

randomly in such a way that they are representative of the overall country. If your child has been asked to take part in TIMSS this year, this means they are part of the random representative sample for Ireland.

Ba mhaith linn gach scoláire sa dara bliain sa tír iomlán a thástáil ach níl sé de chumas orainn é sin a dhéanamh! Ina ionad sin, roghnaíomar líon níos lú scoileanna timpeall na hÉireann. Más rud é go gcuireadh ceist ar do pháiste páirt a ghlacadh in TIMSS i mbliana, tá sé/sí mar chuid de sampla ionadaíoch na hÉireann.

Your child will be asked to answer some questions on maths and science, either on a laptop provided by the ERC, or on pen and paper. For some questions, your child will be asked to choose an answer from a number of options while for other questions, your child will be asked to write a response themselves. After this, they will be asked to answer some questions about themselves, what they think about school, and what they think about maths and science.

Iarrfar ar do pháiste roinnt ceisteanna a fhreagairt ar an matamaitic agus ar an eolaíocht, ar ríomhaire a thabharfaidh an FTO duit nó ar pháipéar. Le haghaidh cuid de na ceisteanna, beidh ar do pháiste freagra a roghnú as roghanna éagsúla, ach, le haghaidh cuid de na ceisteanna eile, beidh ar do pháiste freagra a scríobh dá ndeoin féin. (click) Ina dhiaidh seo, iarrfar orthu roinnt ceisteanna a fhreagairt fúthu faoin, faoin méid a cheapann siad faoin scoil, agus faoin méid a cheapann siad faoin matamaitic agus faoin eolaíocht. [click]

TIMSS also collects background information from parents or guardians, teachers and principals. As a parent or guardian, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire. You may already have received your questionnaire, which can be answered either on paper, or online. We very much hope that you will complete this questionnaire, as it provides very important information about children's home lives all around Ireland.

Chomh maith leis sin, bailíonn TIMSS eolas bunaithe ar chúlra na dtuismitheoirí nó na gcaomhnóirí, ar chúlra na múinteoirí agus ar chúlra na bpríomhoidí. Mar thuismitheoirí nó caomhnóir, iarrfar ort ceistneoir a chomhlánú. Tá seans ann go bhfuil do cheistneoir faighte agat cheana féin, ar féidir leat é a fhreagairt ar pháipéar nó ar líne. Tá súil againn go líonfaidh tú an ceistneoir seo amach mar go gcuireann sé eolas tábhachtach ar fáil dúinn mar gheall ar an saol atá ag páistí sa bhaile timpeall na hÉireann.

4. On test day Ar lá na trialach

TIMSS takes place in your child's school on one morning. It happens on a normal school day, and your child should arrive at class as normal. The teacher will give them instructions about what to do.

Tarlaíonn TIMSS i do scoil féin, le linn maidin amháin. Ar lá na tástála, tar go dtí an rang mar is gnách agus tabharfaidh an múinteoir treoracha duit.

TIMSS will involve 30 minutes for answering questions on maths and science, followed by a short break. Then, another 30 minutes answering more maths and science questions, followed by a short Test-taking questionnaire. After another break, your child will answer some questions about themselves for another 30 minutes. Then, testing is finished.

Is éard a bheidh i gceist le TIMSS ná 30 nóiméad chun ceisteanna a fhreagairt mar gheall ar mhatamaitic agus eolaíocht, le briseadh gearr ina dhiaidh. Ansin, beidh 30 nóiméad eile chun níos mó ceisteanna matamaitice agus eolaíochta a fhreagairt. Ina dhiaidh sin, beidh ceistneoir gearr ann a bhaineann leis na scrúdaithe. Ina dhiaidh sin, freagróidh do pháiste ceisteanna fúthu féin le haghaidh 30 nóiméad eile. Ansin, beidh deireadh leis an triail.

4. FAQs

a) Is TIMSS like other tests my child has done in school?

An important difference between TIMSS and other tests is that TIMSS is not a test of your child specifically. It is not designed to test individual children, but to gather information about countries as a whole so that education systems can be improved. Your child helps us to gather that information by representing other children in Ireland who weren't asked to take part in TIMSS.

Difríocht thábhachtach amháin idir TIMSS agus scrúdaithe eile ná nach bhfuil TIMSS ag déanamh tástáil ar do pháiste go sonrach. Ní dheartar é chun tástáil a dhéanamh ar pháistí aonair, ach chun eolas a bhailiú mar gheall ar thíortha san iomlán ionas gur féidir feabhas a chur ar chórais oideachais. Cabhraíonn do pháiste linn an t-eolas a bhailiú tré ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar pháistí eile in Éirinn nár iarradh orthu páirt a ghlacadh in TIMSS.

For some questions, your child will be asked to choose an answer from a number of options while for other questions, your child will be asked to write a response.

Beidh roinnt ceisteanna ann ina n-iarrfar ar do pháiste freagra a phiocadh ó liosta roghanna ach beidh roinnt ceisteanna eile ina n-iarrfar ar do pháiste freagra a scríobh.

If you would like to see examples of questions from previous years, you can see these on the ERC website at <https://www.erc.ie/studies/timss/fourth-class/>

Má theastaíonn uait roinnt samplaí de cheisteanna a fheiscint ó bhlianta a chuaigh thart, is féidir leat iad a fheiscint ar shuíomh idirlíon an FTO ag <https://www.erc.ie/studies/timss/fourth-class/>

(b) Does everyone get the same test?

An bhfaigheann gach duine an triail chéanna?

Each child taking part in TIMSS receives a slightly different version of the test. There are many questions in TIMSS, with varying levels of difficulty. Each child receives a selection of these questions, meaning that all children will receive a mixture of harder and easier questions. Because of this, we don't produce individual reports for each student, as fair comparisons can't be made, but we do get very accurate information for the country as a whole, which is the purpose of TIMSS. For example, we can use TIMSS to compare what aspects of science children in Ireland are stronger or weaker in compared to Finland or Australia.

Faigheann gach páiste atá ag glacadh páirt in TIMSS leagan beagáinín difriúil den triail. Tá roinnt mhaith ceisteanna in TIMSS, le leibhéil éagsúla deacrachtaí. Faigheann gach páiste

rogha de na ceisteanna seo, agus mar sin, faigheann gach páiste meascán de cheisteanna deacra agus ceisteanna éasca. De bharr é seo, ní dhéanaimid amach tuairisc aonair le haghaidh gach páiste, mar nach féidir comparáidí chothroma a dhéanamh. Ach faighimid eolas cruinn ar an tír ina iomláine agus is é seo an aidhm atá le TIMSS. Mar shampla, is féidir linn TIMSS a úsáid chun comparáid a dhéanamh idir ábaltacht dhaltaí na hÉireann san eolaíocht, chun fiosrú an bhfuil síos níos láidre nó níos laige i gcomparáid leis an Fhionlainn nó an Astráil.

5. Additional Information

Eolas sa bhreis

Your child's answers to TIMSS questions are confidential. A small team of researchers at the ERC are working with the data, each of whom has signed a confidentiality agreement. Once pupils have completed the test and questionnaire, their answers can only be linked to an identification number, not with your child's name. The answer that you give in the home questionnaire will also only be linked to your child's identification number, and not to their name.

Tá freagraí do pháiste ar na ceisteanna TIMSS faoi rún. Tá foireann bheag de thaighdeoirí ag an FTO ag obair leis na sonraí agus tá comhaontú rúndachta sínithe acu. Nuair atá an triail agus an ceistneoir críochnaithe ag daltaí, ní féidir a gcuid freagraí ach a bheith ceangailte le huimhir aitheantais, agus ní chuig ainm do pháiste.

If you wish to withdraw your child from the study, please contact us by email at timss.ireland@erc.ie

Má theastaíonn uait do pháiste a tharraingt siar ón staidéar, déan teagmháil linn trí ríomhphost ag timms.ireland@erc.ie

More information about data protection can be found on the ERC website at www.erc.ie/TIMSS/GDPR

Tá tuilleadh eolais mar gheall ar chosaint sonraí ar fáil ar shuíomh idirlíon an FTO ag www.erc.ie/TIMSS/GDPR

- 6. Thanks for taking part!**
- 7. Go raibh maith agat as ucht páirt a ghlacadh!**

Thank you very much to you and your child for your participation and interest in this important research. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on TIMSS.Ireland@erc.ie.

Go raibh maith agat féin agus do pháiste as ucht an rannpháirt agus suim a bheith agaibh sa taighde tábhachtach seo. Má tá ceisteanna ar bith agat ná bíodh leisce ort dul i dteagmháil linn ag TIMSS.Ireland@erc.ie